



Issue 1
February
2009

Taita College

Newsletter

Contents

Greetings, Kia Ora and Talofa

Welcome back to our students from last year and a special welcome to those joining Taita College for the first time this year. We are pleased about the increased number of year 9 students and the larger than expected number of senior students returning to school. This pattern follows the national trend as reported in recent press reports. Whilst it is pleasing coping with the challenges of having to cater for a larger number of students, finding additional staff at short notice has been difficult. We farewelled Mrs Agalawatta last week from Taita College. She has been a long serving, loyal, dedicated staff member and we regretted losing her service as a full-time teacher. Mrs Agalawatta has taken up a position as an RTLB (Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour) within our cluster and has been allocated to our college for 2.5 days per week, which is great news for us.

The use of cell phones, MP3 players and ipods is increasingly interfering with the process of teaching and learning so we have decided to address this problem by taking the position that all of these items must be in student bags when they are in class, at all times. Students have been advised of this at a full assembly and this regime will start as from Monday 23 February. As a final position, pupils who do use these items in class will be asked to hand them in by a staff member. Parents will be advised by letter and invited to call in at the college to collect the item. Senior managers in the college, staff and the Board of Trustees are in full agreement about the benefits to student educational outcomes if they are not distracted in class by using such devices.

It is vitally important for all parents to support us in this undertaking if we are to be jointly involved and successful in ensuring the best educational experience for your children.

I am happy to discuss this more fully with any parents or caregivers who may have concerns about the decision I have made. Finally, our first parent teacher interviews will be held shortly after the interim reports are issued at the end of week 7, and I look forward to seeing you all there on 18 or 19 March.

S.R. Candasamy
Principal

**Pride through Success
Honour through Service**

Staff Changes

2009 Deans

Year 9	Emma Henderson
Year 10	Ingrid Berry
Year 11	Jo Parr
Year 12	Shakuntla Awmee
Year 13	Mary Opie

Welcome New Teachers

We welcome the following teachers who are new to Taita College. We know you will enjoy working in our positive learning environment.

Luka Andic will be in the science rooms.

Katherine Haines will be covering Ms Szabo's study leave position for Terms 1 & 2.

Aaron Hare will be teaching part time in PE and Health.

Rawiri Hirini will be part time in Te Reo and kapa haka.

Kathryn McGavin will be covering Mrs Mulligan's study leave position for Terms 1 & 2.

Catherine Peek will be teaching social sciences.

Jeff Wagstaff will be covering Mrs Moore's maternity leave position for Terms 1, 2 & 3.

Frank Whelan has replaced Jackie Agalwatta in looking after 5EXE. We were sorry to see her go but she is still coming in regularly as part of her RTLBB position.

We also welcome back **Cat Saysell** on a part-time basis to teach drama.

Our congratulations are extended to **Rachel Scott** on her appointment as TIC Dance/Arts Coordinator.



Safety in Car Parks

We have had a number of near misses in the car park areas after school when students are leaving. We ask that parents park on Eastern Hutt Road and do not come into the school grounds to pick up their students.

We have placed a chain across the entry point so that students can safely leave the school. The bus lane is also only sufficiently wide for the buses to park in. There is no space for vehicles to pass the buses once they have arrived.

We ask that parents are mindful of the risk to the students and others with moving vehicles in the school grounds.

On wet days, our office cannot get messages to students that a parent is coming to pick them up. A good idea is to have a transport plan in place for the year which determines where you will pick up your student/s and under what circumstances.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Emma Henderson also has the responsibility in 2009 to support new and beginning teachers.

Jenny Wooding is the **Specialist Classroom Teacher** for staff.

In addition to the guidance and advice available to all students at Taita College from their parents and caregivers, subject teachers, form teachers and deans for each year level, Taita College also offers, or arranges for, specific guidance services on careers, academic performance, and a wide range of more general matters.

Ms Rankine, guidance counsellor, who dealt with a number of the more general guidance matters is on study leave in 2009. While she is away the more general guidance advice will be provided by a combination of Mr Grace, a Senior Dean from 2006-2008, Mrs Harcourt the school nurse, and specialist outside agencies available to the school.

Mr Grace will also be implementing a new academic guidance programme. That programme will see in each of terms 1, 2 and 3, Mr Grace scheduled to meet with each senior student to discuss their academic progress. A note of each discussion will be placed on the student's record. The principal points of contact for parents and caregivers re their child's academic performance will remain their subject teachers, form teacher and dean.

ERO—Education Review Office

Engagement works well when relationships between parents and the people at the school are developed and nurtured in ways that respect diversity. Parents appreciate regular communication that is both formal and informal. They like positive feedback about their child but they also want to know sooner rather than later if there are concerns about learning or well-being. Home-school partnerships are strengthened when parents have opportunities to share in their child's successes and to help their child with learning activities at home.

Sept. 2008

2009 Dates to Note



2-3 March	Girls' vaccine
5 March	Class Photos
18/19 March	Parent/Teacher Evenings
1 April	Swimming Sports
9 April	Last day of Term One
11 Dec	Last day for 2009

Roopu Awhina Meeting

The Roopu Awhina group meets the first Monday of each month in the marae at 6.30pm. The next meeting will be on 2 March.

It is a forum for parents to discuss ideas, issues and receive feedback from staff about Maori student achievement and engagement.

The group would like to develop a parent phone list to encourage people to participate and remind them of meetings.

If you would like to be included in this phone list please contact Danielle Shields in the college student office, ext. 233.

Taita College Uniform Shop

All new uniform items and homework text books can be purchased from the college. Please note that the school blazer and tie are to be worn all year.

SHOP HOURS

Tuesday 9.00 am — 11.30 am

Thursday 3.00 pm — 4.30 pm

For new enrolments, the shop will be open for sales by arrangement. Please contact Ronwyn on ext 235.

Second Hand Blazers

Second hand blazers will be bought and sold by the Uniform Shop. We will not be buying any other uniform.

We will accept blazers in good to excellent condition at an agreed price. The price will be determined by the quality and condition of the blazer. Dry cleaning is not necessary but will be considered when negotiating the price.

NO blazer will be accepted without parental or caregiver consent. The consent must also give details of where the cheque can be sent to, or details of a bank account for funds to be lodged to.

When blazers have been processed they will be available for sale in the Uniform Shop. Taita College reserves the right not to accept blazers that it considers to be in an unacceptable condition.

We will be happy to accept any items of donated uniform as well.



Junior Prize

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Moran Trophy for the Junior Girl with the Best All Round Academic, Cultural, Service and Sporting Record

BROOKE MARGETTS

Salvation Army Work Skills Cup for the Junior Boy with the Best AllRound Academic, Cultural, Service and Sporting Record

SHAUN ARNST

Maureen Rodger Cup for Academic Excellence in Year 9

DANIEL BROWNIE

Alex Rodger Cup for Academic Excellence in Year 10

MATTHEW YOUNG



Brooke Margetts



Shaun Arnst



Daniel Brownie



Matthew Young

SPORTS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Runnerup to All Round Excellence in Junior Girls Sport
AKE ISAIA-HAPIMANA

Taita College Cup for All Round Excellence in Junior Girls Sport
KAHU ELLIOTT

Runnerup to All Round Excellence in Junior Boys Sport
ENOS PALEMENE

Lynch Trophy for All Round Excellence in Junior Boys Sport
JARROD BURNETT

CULTURAL AND SPECIAL AWARDS

DEBATING

Allen Cup for Best Junior Debater
DANIEL BROWNIE

ESL

Most Improved ESL Student
DAVID ISOPO

KAPAHAKA

Contribution to Kapa haka by a Junior Student
HENARE WHAANGA

MUSIC

Award for the Most Improved Junior Musician
VAVATAU SIONE

Award for Contribution to Music by a Junior Student
MIGLIORE MAUIGOA



Migliore Mauigoa plays the piano at the Junior Prize giving ceremony.

Giving 2008

YEAR 9 SUBJECT AWARDS

1 st in English, 1 st in Science, 1 st in Social Studies, 1 st in Art, 2 nd in Mathematics	DANIEL BROWNE
1 st in Mathematics, 3 rd in Art	VAN SANHNIKONE
1 st in Computer Studies	LIAM HANLON-BLOCKSAGE
1 st in Dance, 1 st in Physical Education	AKE ISAIA-HAPIMANA
1 st in Drama	JAMAL TOFAEONO
1 st in Food and Nutrition	CHELICIE HALLIGAN
1 st in Graphic and Design, 2 nd in Science, 3 rd in English	KATHLEEN BAKER
1 st in Literacy Skills	RAYMOND MURRELL
1 st in Maori	TARYN ATKINSON-KEEPA
1 st in Workshop, 3 rd in Literacy Skills	DAVID ISOPO

1st in Music

MIGLIORE MAUIGOA

1st in Physical Education

SHAUN ARNST

1st in Workshop

DANIEL HAWKES



Luke Crouch plays the violin at the Junior Prize giving .

YEAR 10 ACADEMIC AWARDS

1 st in English, 3 rd in Drama	MARISSA CARTER
1 st in Mathematics	LEONOR AGUSTIN
1 st in Science, 2 nd in Mathematics	LUKE CROUCH
1 st in Social Studies, 1 st in Drama	BROOKE MARGETTS
1 st in Art	ASHLEIGH COLE
1 st in Computer Studies	BRETT STEER
1 st in Dance	AARON BRAIN
1 st in Food and Nutrition, 3 rd in Computer Studies	TOMMY McLOUGHLIN
1 st in Graphic and Design, 2 nd in English, 2 nd in Social Studies, 3 rd in Mathematics, 3 rd in Science	MATTHEW YOUNG
1 st in Literacy Skills	ISAIAH PRICE-VAAITOA
1 st in Maori	LATISHA PRESTON

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Taita College and they will
donate the GST equivalent to the school.
Freight & branded cartridges not included.*



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Honour through Service**

Homework Diaries Itinerant Music Lessons

For 2009, homework diaries have been issued **free** to **all** students. These are expensive so could parents of all students at all levels please ensure that these are not lost. It is ideal that they remain with the student until the end of the school year. Should they be lost, then it will be the parents' cost to replace them.

The staff handbook states the following:

- ♣ Homework routine - ensure that work is written into the homework diary. The diary is checked as part of your exit routine.
- ♦ Class teachers routinely check the diaries and those students without them could be kept back.
- ♣ Form teachers can use the diary for communication with home. Parents, please help us by checking at least once a week that students have their diary and are using it.
- ♦ The diaries are one way of ensuring our students can plan their time and can develop organisational skills. NCEA students can use their diaries as a school based record of assessments passed and signed off by the class teacher.



Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

~Thomas Edison

Students who are involved in classroom music have the opportunity to learn an instrument through specialised instrument tutors in the Music Department. The cost of learning is \$20 per year which covers the repair, maintenance and purchase of instruments.

Currently the Music Department offers lessons in guitar, bass, piano, voice, clarinet, saxophone, flute, violin, viola and cello.

Instruments may be hired from the college at a cost of \$80 per year. In the case of guitar, bass or piano, students will need to have access to their own instruments as these cannot be hired.

For more details about learning or hiring instruments please contact Vicki Ferguson, TIC Music.



Code of Conduct

We have the *right* to:

- Learn and teach without interruption
- Learn and teach in a safe environment
- Be treated with courtesy and respect
- A comfortable and stimulating environment
- Take pride in our achievements
- Receive help

We have the *responsibility* to :

- Allow others to learn
- Keep our school a safe and healthy place
- Treat others with courtesy and respect
- Keep our school tidy and attractive
- Act in ways that build a good image
- Serve others
- Have respect for yourself and others

P

Punctual-be on time

U

Uniform-wear correct uniform

G

Gear-bring what you need to work

New Health Clinic Hours

Happy New Year and welcome from the **VIBE** Health clinic.

The Health clinic is a place for students and their families to talk about and get advice, support and treatment for any health issue. The service is completely confidential and free, including any medication required. We are funded by the Hutt Valley District Health Board, and are part of **VIBE** youth health services in the Hutt Valley.

The hours for the health clinic this year will be -

Monday	9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Wednesday	11.00 am – 3.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 am – 12.30 pm

The **doctor** will be here on **Wednesday afternoons** from 12.30 – 2.30 pm.

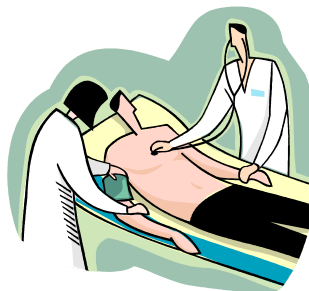
Students can make an appointment to see the nurse or doctor by either

- dropping in to the clinic, or
- leaving a request in the letter box at the clinic or
- by making an appointment at the student admin office when the health clinic is closed. (Students do not say what they are coming for when an appointment is made).

Did you know that up until a student is 18 years old he or she is entitled to free dental care? We have a list of dentists in the Hutt Valley who provide free care under the Ministry of Health contract. Students need to enrol with one of these dentists to get the free treatment. En-

rolment forms are available at the health clinic, most dentists or the district health board.

Please contact the clinic if you would like more information on this or any health issue.



Annie Harcourt - Youth Health Nurse
Clinic phone – 567 9850.

Ruatoria Trip



On 8 December staff and parents took around 30 students from the school kapa haka and mentoring tuakana, Teina Roopu to Ruatoria on the East Coast for a week long trip. The group fundraised hard all year to make the trip more affordable for whanau so that no one was left out.

While in Ruatoria, we took a four hour trek up Mount Hikurangi that was 9 kilometres long, went horse riding all day and were hosted by the Tangatawhenua there on Rongohaere Marae.

This is where we were treated with the most generous hospitality. We also met all of the locals and swam in the Waiapu away. It was the trip of a lifetime and one that the students will always remember.

On 11 December the group travelled to Omahu in Hastings, then stayed for the night and were hosted by my whanau. On 12 December, we spent the day at Splash Planet before returning home.

Overall, we had a wonderful time and hope to do it all again this year. It was a cultural and spiritual experience that benefited all who attended. kapa haka and mentoring tuakana groups. Teina is open to all Taita College students. **If you would like to know more about them,** please contact either myself Kerry Hirini (Community Liaison) or Rawiri Hirini (Maori Teacher).



Matiu—Somes Island Visit

Once again, Taita College juniors visited Matiu-Somes Island as part of the school end of the year junior programme.

The joy of the ferry trip was reinforced by the excitement of visiting the island with its historic settler graves.

The challenge of trying to spot tuatara was compounded by the challenge of naming all the birds that were heard.

Wandering through the second world war gun placements rewarded us with a spectacular view of the Hutt Valley.

Ship rats and other pests were eradicated from the island in the late 1980s.

Since that time, the island has become a sanctuary for native plants, birds, reptiles and invertebrates. For this reason, it is important that all visitors check bags at the Whare Kiore upon their arrival, to help keep Matiu/Somes free of pests.

Birds on the island

"Kita, kita, kita, kita" A kākārīki/ red-crowned parakeet



With its successful reintroduction, the sounds of the red-crowned parakeet/ kākārīki can again be heard on the island. This brightly-coloured, green and red bird used to be quite common across mainland New Zealand.

land.

North Island robin have also been relocated to the island from nearby Kapiti Island.

Other native forest bird populations include fantail, kingfisher and silvereye. Introduced species, such as the chaffinch and dunnock, also occur on Matiu/Somes.



The island is inhabited by a variety of seabirds, such as southern black-backed gull, spotted shag, and variable oystercatcher. There are plans to reintroduce several other native bird species to Matiu/Somes. Amazing weta

There are 500 species of invertebrates on Matiu/Somes and Mokopuna islands, including several species of weta. The Cook Strait giant weta and Wellington tree weta were reintroduced to the island in the late 1990s.

Skinks, geckos and tuatara



Eight species of reptiles found only in New Zealand, occur on Matiu/Somes - common skink, spotted skink, copper skink, ornate skink,

common gecko, forest gecko, Wellington green gecko and Brothers Island tuatara. Visitors often hear and see skinks along the island's tracks. The nocturnal geckos and tuatara are less frequently seen, but sightings do occur, so keep your eyes peeled.

Tuatara belong to an ancient order of reptiles, and have no other living relatives. Matiu / Somes Island's original tuatara population was wiped out by the mid-1800s. However, in 1998, more than 50 Brothers Island tuatara were successfully introduced. Suspicions that they were breeding on the island were finally confirmed in 2007, with the hatching of two tuatara in August from eggs found on the island three months earlier. The eggs were incubated at Victoria University of Wellington School of Biological Sciences and the baby tuatara were released onto the island at a ceremony in November 2007.

source: DOC. NZ

Literacy Development Project

Taita-Stokes Valley cluster of schools

Literacy competence underpins all effective learning in the 21st Century. It is also crucial for ensuring that students gain qualifications through NCEA. Furthermore, if the NCEA achievement results of students are to reflect their ability and potential, their literacy skills need to be developed to the highest level.

Literacy skills include: reading, writing and oral language.

The Taita-Stokes Valley cluster of schools considers that developing and accelerating their students' literacy skills is essential. Therefore, in order to maximise the best outcomes for our students, we are participating in an intensive Ministry of Education funded project.

The project is designed to develop teacher expertise in diagnosing each student's literacy needs and in delivering effective programmes to meet those needs. All students are expected to achieve success to their potential, at every level of their schooling.

The goals for the cluster include:

"To raise student achievement in literacy...that will enable our students to access higher educational opportunities; in particular those of Maori and Pasifika students".

This goal aligns with the Ministry of Education statement that all schools must improve learning outcomes for all students; in particular those of Maori and Pasifika students. The project has been developed and designed over the past two years. The formal submission was presented to the Ministry of Education mid-2008. The project will run for at least three years, with Ministry of Education support for a further three years following that. Effectively, this means the schools within the cluster will experience at least six years of extensive ministry support, to ensure that the benefits of this initiative are embedded into each school's culture.


The schools within our cluster are: Koraunui, Tawhai, Tui Glen, Pomare, Taita Central, St Bernadettes, St Michaels, Avalon Intermediate and Taita College. As a cluster we are focused and determined to provide the best outcomes for our students. We work closely together. Principals meet regularly to discuss progress and to investigate and adopt proven initiatives that improve outcomes for students. Each school has appointed at least one literacy leader. This staffing commitment ensures that the project's intentions remain clearly focused. Literacy teams within schools will develop over the time of the project. Every staff member, at every school, has regular professional development delivered by outside agencies.

Our schools share assessment data to ensure that the school that the student is attending understands the needs and abilities of the student. As long as a student stays inside our group of schools he or she will remain in a position to benefit from the range of changes that has been instigated.

It is pleasing to report that many junior students at Taita College, in particular Year 10 Maori and Pasifika boys, made significant progress in 2008. In 2009 we will continue our drive to significantly improve student writing. We will also concentrate on developing reading. At Taita College we intend to maximise the potential for successful student outcomes.

Brenda Godwin
(Literacy Project Leader, Taita College).





For new migrant women of all ages...

**Supporting Women in
New
Growth Skills**

- *Meet others
- *Practise English
- *Learn New Skills
- *Share and exchange cultural experiences
- *Learn about life
- *Childcare provided
- *Free Bus

When: Tuesdays 10.00 – 12.00 noon
(during primary school terms)

Where: Avalon Baptist Church Hall,
corner Lincoln Ave and High St Avalon, Lower Hutt

For further information please call

Sarah - Ph: 569 9229
Amber - Ph: 576 0826

Athletics

We will write more in the next issue, but the Athletics day was fine and a fantastic time was had by all.

Participation was pleasing and it was impressive that all houses wore their colours with pride.

The best part of the day was that four records were broken by the talented Sapphire Cavie. The crowd also noticed the talent of young Rebeka Kiwara who ran well in the track events.

At Taita College we have many brilliant athletes and we encourage them to make use of all of the opportunities offered here at the college.



Punctuality signifies **respect** for your teacher's time.



Is your child a truant?

Have you ever been horrified to hear that someone else's child has been wagging ie playing truant. In fact, it could happen to you! The role of our truancy officer is to diagnose the causes of the truancy in order to help the student sort him or herself out.

Often the cause is just that the student mistakenly thinks the teacher "doesn't like me", when this simply isn't true. Another reason is often that the student does not understand the subject and needs to have help to catch up.

Mrs Iti is our attendance officer and she is here to help sort out these misunderstandings. Remember, it takes a village to raise a child. Let us know when students are not in school and they should be.

Parent Meetings with the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees would like to meet with parents and caregivers in our three communities to update them on what is happening at the college and the school's vision for the future. It will also be a good opportunity for the Board members to receive feedback and answer any questions. The meetings will be held at 7.00 pm as follows (further details later):

Taita	23 March
Stokes Valley	30 March
Pomare	7 April

It is hoped that as many parents as possible will be able to attend these meetings.



We ask for all Taita College books from 2008 (and prior) to be returned to Taita College .

These books are needed for your students' study.



Fees Draw

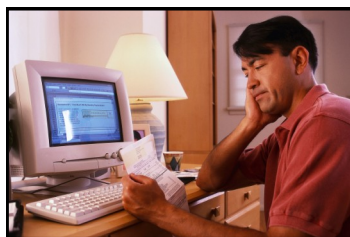
It isn't too late for you to go into our draw for a **\$500 travel** or **Westfield voucher** if you pay your fees by 9 April 2009 (**end of term one**). The draw will take place as soon as possible after that date.

The fees are **\$120 per student**, or for families with more than one child, the fee is **\$100 per child**. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

If you have an automatic payment at the college, we will automatically deduct from available funds but you only qualify for the draw if you pay all your family's activity fee for 2009 before 9 April 2009.

We especially thank those parents and caregivers who have paid already.

Freda Kelly
Executive Officer



School Newsletter via e-mail

If you would like to receive notification via e-mail of a new issue of the school newsletter when it is placed on our web-site please e-mail the secretary@taita.school.nz and we will place you into our system. Please make sure we have your latest e-address.

Our URL address: www.taita.school.nz

Editor: Gill Berridge
Gill@taita.school.nz **Send us your news!!!**



Steve Gurney visited late 2008 to talk to a selected group of students who are high achievers in sport.

Automatic Payments

If you want to help your family budget cope with the expenses throughout the year, you can start an automatic payment to Taita College now.

Funds that mount up can be used to pay for school trips, uniform and stationery for your children. When you set up an automatic payment, you must sign an agreement form that is held at the school. Many families have commented on how helpful it is to budget and pay for fees etc when you use this forward payment system.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Freda Kelly, the Executive Officer, on extension 205.

Success is a state of mind

Understand the importance of being on time. Students who are always *on time* are the *people* who *earn the best grades, win scholarships* and get into great universities, or get apprenticeships.

Get enough sleep. If you have trouble getting out of bed in the morning, then make a serious effort to *get to bed earlier*.

Attend regularly. Come to understand your work. If you are away you will get behind.

If you think you can do it—you can!



**Pride through Success
Honour through Service**

